

GREG PENCE  
6TH DISTRICT, INDIANA



TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RAILROADS, PIPELINES  
AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE, EURASIA,  
ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1406

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March 12, 2020

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger,

It is a privilege to serve the people of Indiana's 6<sup>th</sup> District, and my priorities will always include job creation, economic growth, and the protection of conservative values in Washington. I'm proud of the work we have accomplished during my first year serving in the 116th Congress to address the unique barriers faced by Hoosiers living in rural communities, but there is more work to be done. As you begin work on the twelve Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations bills, I write to express my support for the following overarching priorities to keep the economy thriving and America prosperous for generations to come:

Investing in Rural America:

To foster thriving rural economics, I urge you to provide robust funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) **Re-Connect Program, Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Electric Loans, Community Connect Grant Program, Broadband Loan and Grant Pilot Program, Rural Broadband Access Loan Program, Revitalizing Rural America Infrastructure Program**, and the **Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program**. In addition, I urge you to provide robust funding for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) **Rural Health Outreach Grant Program, Rural Communities Opioid Response Program, and Rural Telehealth**. President Trump's new **Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) Initiative** will address disparities in rural transportation infrastructure, therefore fully funding this program is of critical importance.

Expanding and strengthening broadband connectivity, improving access to rural healthcare, and rebuilding rural infrastructure will keep the economy thriving in Indiana and nationwide.

Strengthening our Commitment to Hoosier Veterans:

As a Marine Corps Infantry Officer, I understand the courage and sacrifice it takes to defend our great nation. In order to address the challenges faced by the 46,000 veterans in Indiana's 6<sup>th</sup> District, I urge you to support **\$313 million for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Suicide Prevention and Outreach Programs, including the Veterans Crisis Line, Suicide Coordinators, and Public Awareness campaigns**. Too many veteran Hoosiers living in rural parts of my district do not have adequate access to the health care services that they need. For that reason, I encourage robust funding for the **Veteran Telehealth Program, Caregiver Support**

**Program, Opioid Abuse Prevention Programs**, and language to support the **Clinical Resource Hub** initiative. Further, continued funding for the **Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH)** Program is critical for fellow Hoosier Veterans in southeastern Indiana who rely on this program to meet their housing and clinical service needs.

Our veterans have made great sacrifices to ensure the safety and best interests of our nation. Your support of our nation's great men and women is sincerely appreciated.

Ensuring America's Security:

It was an honor to welcome the 127<sup>th</sup> Cyber Battalion to the Hoosier state last year. As the seventh largest Army National Guard contingent in the nation, I urge you to fully fund the **Pilot Program on Regional Cybersecurity Training Center for the Army National Guard** to support the establishment of a Cybersecurity Training Center at the Indiana National Guard's Atterbury-Muscatatuck complex. Building on this momentum, I urge you to support \$100 million for the U.S. Army's procurement of fuel-efficient and cost-effective generator sets known as **Advanced Medium Mobile Power Sources (AMMPS)**.

As you balance a number of competing interests while preparing the final appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2021, I appreciate your attention to the priorities important to Indiana's 6<sup>th</sup> District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GP', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Greg Pence  
Member of Congress